

for the average taxpayer in the country.

It also reduces the U.S. trade deficit by roughly \$34 billion, and this is huge, because what is eating our economy alive is a huge trade deficit at the present time. As we remove ourselves from dependence on foreign oil, which is the main cause of the trade deficit, we begin to see things turn around because of ethanol.

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And as I mentioned earlier, it does significantly reduce air pollution. So we think this is a win-win for the American economy, for the American people; and I urge my colleagues to support the higher level of 8 billion gallons of ethanol that is currently in the Senate version of the energy bill.

REMEMBERING GAYLORD NELSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUHLMAN of New York). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to say goodbye to our former Governor and former Senator, Gaylord Nelson, who passed away at the age of 89 last week. Wisconsin will miss the man from Clear Lake, who embodied the best of our great State and its proud, progressive tradition, as well as the best our country can offer.

Throughout his many years of public service, Senator Nelson worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Wisconsin, this country, and the environment. He was one of the first to recognize that economic development and the protection of our natural resources are not mutually exclusive.

He was also keenly aware that public opinion was far ahead of public policy in this area and that policymakers needed to catch up to where the American people were. Most importantly, he recognized the value in doing a better job of protecting the land, the water, the air we breathe, and the environment of which we are mere stewards for our children and grandchildren.

In addition, Senator Nelson rightly believed that we have an obligation to work together, all of us as citizens of this planet, to better preserve and protect our natural resources so that we leave the world for our children better off than we found it.

It was his vision that led to the creation of Earth Day in 1970 and a new compact between government and its citizens to enhance the protection and quality of our precious natural resources. Earth Day was then followed by the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and then the passage of the Clean Air and the Clean Water acts.

Thirty-five years later we have taken great strides to improve the environmental stewardship across the entire globe. Earth Day today is celebrated

annually by hundreds of millions of people in more than 180 countries. How many other individuals can claim they created a global movement of such magnitude?

Senator Nelson was also someone who recognized that even with all of the progress we had made, our work is far from finished. Until recently, he remained active in the environmental field and provided guidance to others, including myself, on some of the unfinished work still left to do.

There is no other individual that has had a greater impact on shaping the respect and appreciation we have for our environment today. His contributions are invaluable. We owe him a debt of gratitude that we can repay by continuing his work.

Senator, Governor, Father of Earth Day, a veteran of World War II, friend, these are among the many ways Gaylord Nelson will be remembered. He leaves behind a legacy and a lesson that one person with a vision of change and a mountain of determination can have a profound effect on the direction of our country and of the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carrie Lee and the entire Nelson family. I will never forget during our first campaign, when my wife, Tawni, and I were with Senator Nelson and Carrie Lee up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin. They wowed us with their elegance, their grace, their dignity, and they became our role models of what public service should be all about.

Services this week will be held in Madison and in Clear Lake, Wisconsin. We loved him. We will miss him. And we all can honor him by continuing his unfinished work. May the Good Lord bless and keep the great American patriot Gaylord Nelson.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WOMEN'S ACTION PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity tonight to address the positive effects which American foreign policy has had on the rights of women throughout the world.

As vice-Chair of the Congressional Women's Caucus and as Chair of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Middle East and Central Asia, I have witnessed U.S. efforts to support women across the globe, especially in post-conflict situations.

The progress is historic. Just ask the survivors of Saddam Hussein's regime

and the Taliban. The Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq indiscriminately slaughtered all Iraqis, but the women were among the most vulnerable.

The notorious Fedayeen beheaded women in public and dumped their severed heads at their families' doorsteps. The regime used widespread rape to extract confessions from detainees. Saddam Hussein's legacy of terror knew no boundaries.

In assessing U.S. contributions to Iraqi women, I look to leaders such as Dr. Khuzai, who served as a member of the Iraqi Governing Council and National Council of Women. After being prisoners in their own country for 35 years, she said, for the Iraqi women, the morale is so high that you cannot understand it unless you go and see. We will be grateful forever.

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Iraq as part of a historic all-female congressional delegation. We met with women from all sectors and all educational backgrounds, and the message we heard from all of these women was very clear: They want a say, they want a role, they want to participate, and they want to have the U.S. help them in getting there.

To achieve this end, the United States is helping Iraqi women reintegrate themselves into Iraqi society and indeed to the outside world. The administration embarked on the Iraqi Women's Democracy Initiative to train Iraqi women in the skills and practices of democratic public life.

It also established the U.S. Iraqi Women's Network, helping to mobilize the private sector in the United States and to link important resources here to critical needs on the ground. Recently, we saw the fruits of our efforts as countless Iraqi women went to the polls.

U.S. efforts have contributed to a significant positive change in the lives of women in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, the Taliban's brutality and blatant disregard for the lives and well being of the Afghan people was perhaps most clearly evident among half of its population, the women of Afghanistan. Made widows and orphans by the will of the Taliban, they were banned from receiving any education past the age of 8, for which the curriculum was limited to the Taliban's corrupted version of the Koran.

In the year 2000, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization estimated that as few as 3 percent of Afghan girls were receiving primary education. Today, it is thrilling to note that thanks to our U.S. efforts, Afghan women are active participants in their political future. More than 8 million Afghans voted in this country's first-ever presidential election, and 41 percent of them were women.

Hamid Karzai was announced as the official winner; and in his new cabinet appointments, he named three women as ministers. We as a Nation provided political and advocacy training for Afghan women and provided the funds to